

Durrington

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



51680 3RD AIR MEC.

J. E. MATTHEWS

ROYAL AIR FORCE

23RD FEBRUARY, 1919 AGE 36

*So He Bringeth Them
To Their Haven of Rest*

James Edward MATTHEWS

James Edward Matthews was born at Durrington, Wiltshire to parents James & Julia Fanny Matthews (nee Blake) around 1883. James Edward's parents had married at St. Thomas a Beckett Church at Tilshead, Wiltshire in 1875.

The 1891 Census recorded James Matthews as an 8 year old living with his family at Durrington, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as James Matthews (Agricultural Labourer, aged 37, born Tilshead) & Fanny Matthews (aged 43, born Stoford, Wiltshire). James was the middle child of 3 children listed in this Census – Frank (aged 13), then James & Annie (aged 6).

The 1901 Census recorded Edward J. Matthews as an 18 year old, Carter on a Farm, living with his family at Durrington, Wiltshire. His parents were recorded as James Matthews (Carter on a Farm, aged 44) & Fanny (aged 54). Also listed was James' older brother Frank (General Labourer at Military Camp, aged 23).

A death was registered in the December quarter, 1909 in the district of Amesbury for Fanny Julia Matthews, aged 61 – James' mother.

The 1911 Census recorded James Matthews, aged 28, General Labourer, living with his father – James Matthews (Carman, aged 34, Widower) in a 3 roomed dwelling at Durrington.

Air Mechanic 3rd Class James Edward Matthews died on 23rd February, 1919, aged 36 years, at Bethnal Green Military Hospital. His records show that at the time of his death he was attached to Royal Air Force – Halton Camp.

A death was registered for James Matthews, aged 38, in March quarter, 1919 in the district of Bethnal Green, East London.

Air Mechanic 3rd Class James Edward Matthews was buried in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire in Plot 54 on 2nd March, 1919. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such has a CWGC headstone with the inscription "So He Bringeth Them To Their Haven of Rest". The CWGC lists James Edward Matthews as the son of James & Fanny Matthews of The Ham, Durrington, Salisbury.

Probate was granted on 13th February, 1920 at Salisbury, Wiltshire. Details of Administration were James Matthews of The Ham, Durrington died 23rd February, 1919 to James Matthews, Carter – effects £108 7s. 9d.

Photo of Air Mechanic 3rd Class J. E. Matthews' headstone in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo by Ian King 2010)

J. Matthews is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Durrington.

Air Mechanic James Matthews is also remembered on the Durrington War Memorial, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of Ian King 2010)